

Union Calendar No. 364

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3292

[Report No. 106-659]

To provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge
in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 1999

Mr. BAKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Resources

JUNE 8, 2000

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 10, 1999]

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National
Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Cat Island National*
5 *Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act”.*

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 *The Congress finds that—*

3 *(1) as the southernmost unleveed portion of the*
4 *Mississippi River, Cat Island, Louisiana, is one of*
5 *the last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi*
6 *Valley that is still influenced by the natural dynam-*
7 *ics of the river;*

8 *(2) Cat Island supports one of the highest den-*
9 *sities of virgin bald cypress trees in the entire Mis-*
10 *sissippi River Valley, including the Nation's cham-*
11 *pion cypress tree which is 17 feet wide and has a cir-*
12 *cumference of 53 feet;*

13 *(3) Cat Island is important habitat for several*
14 *declining species of forest songbirds and supports*
15 *thousands of wintering waterfowl;*

16 *(4) Cat Island supports high populations of deer,*
17 *turkey, and furbearers, such as mink and bobcats;*

18 *(5) conservation and enhancement of this area*
19 *through inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge*
20 *System would help meet the habitat conservation*
21 *goals of the North American Waterfowl Management*
22 *Plan;*

23 *(6) these forested wetlands represent one of the*
24 *most valuable and productive wildlife habitat types in*
25 *the United States, and have extremely high rec-*

1 *reational value for hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, na-*
2 *ture photographers, and others; and*

3 *(7) the Cat Island area is deserving of inclusion*
4 *in the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

5 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS:**

6 *For purposes of this Act—*

7 *(1) the term “Refuge” means the Cat Island Na-*
8 *tional Wildlife Refuge; and*

9 *(2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of*
10 *the Interior.*

11 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES.**

12 *The purposes for which the Refuge is established and*
13 *shall be managed are—*

14 *(1) to conserve, restore, and manage habitats as*
15 *necessary to contribute to the migratory bird popu-*
16 *lation goals and habitat objective as established*
17 *through the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture;*

18 *(2) to conserve, restore, and manage the signifi-*
19 *cant aquatic resource values associated with the area’s*
20 *forested wetlands and to achieve the habitat objectives*
21 *of the “Mississippi River Aquatic Resources Manage-*
22 *ment Plan”;*

23 *(3) to conserve, enhance, and restore the historic*
24 *native bottomland community characteristics of the*

1 *lower Mississippi alluvial valley and its associated*
2 *fish, wildlife, and plant species;*

3 *(4) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to*
4 *maintain and assist in the recovery of endangered,*
5 *and threatened plants and animals;*

6 *(5) to provide opportunities for priority public*
7 *wildlife dependent uses for compatible hunting, fish-*
8 *ing, trapping, wildlife observation and photography,*
9 *and environmental education and interpretation; and*

10 *(6) to encourage the use of volunteers and facili-*
11 *tate partnerships among the United States Fish and*
12 *Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation or-*
13 *ganizations, and other non-Federal entities to pro-*
14 *mote public awareness of the resources of the Refuge*
15 *and the National Wildlife Refuge System and public*
16 *participation in the conservation of those resources.*

17 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGE.**

18 *(a) ACQUISITION BOUNDARY.—The Secretary is au-*
19 *thorized to establish the Cat Island National Wildlife Ref-*
20 *uge, consisting of approximately 36,500 acres of land and*
21 *water, as depicted upon a map entitled “Cat Island Na-*
22 *tional Wildlife Refuge—Proposed”, dated ____, 2000, and*
23 *available for inspection in appropriate offices of the United*
24 *States Fish and Wildlife Service.*

1 (b) *BOUNDARY REVISIONS.*—*The Secretary may make*
2 *such minor revisions of the boundary designated under this*
3 *section as may be appropriate to carry out the purposes*
4 *of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of property*
5 *within the Refuge.*

6 (c) *ACQUISITION.*—*The Secretary is authorized to ac-*
7 *quire the lands and waters, or interests therein, within the*
8 *acquisition boundary described in subsection (a) of this sec-*
9 *tion.*

10 (d) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretary shall establish*
11 *the Refuge by publication of a notice to that effect in the*
12 *Federal Register and publications of local circulation when-*
13 *ever sufficient property has been acquired to constitute an*
14 *area that can be efficiently managed as a National Wildlife*
15 *Refuge.*

16 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

17 *The Secretary shall administer all lands, waters, and*
18 *interests therein acquired under this Act in accordance with*
19 *the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act*
20 *(16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.). The Secretary may use such addi-*
21 *tional statutory authority as may be available for the con-*
22 *servation of fish and wildlife, and the provision of fish- and*
23 *wildlife-oriented recreational opportunities as the Secretary*
24 *considers appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act.*

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 *There are authorized to be appropriated to the Depart-*
3 *ment of the Interior—*

4 *(1) such funds as may be necessary for the acqui-*
5 *sition of lands and waters designated in section 5(c);*
6 *and*

7 *(2) such funds as may be necessary for the devel-*
8 *opment, operation, and maintenance of the Refuge.*

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